

## Abalone Shell Cutting & Carving

Nisqually Culture Program and Michael Preston, Tuiimyali Designs

Shell cutting, carving and finishing at Nisqually Youth & Community Center

December 17 Nisqually Community Dinner information table

December 18        5 p

December 19        10:30 a

December 20        10:30 a

December 21        10:30 a

December 22        10:30 a

5 pm community presentation at NYCC

light snacks and drinks

Sign up is restricted to older teens(with parent/guardian permission) and adults.

Power tools will be used. Protective gear shall be used. 15 spots

The Nisqually Culture Program is providing materials.

Contact Nemah Choubaquak to sign up.

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## 5-Day Workshop Curriculum: Elementary Abalone Skills

### **Day 1: Introduction & Design (3 hours)**

- Introduction to Abalone history: current context (RE: climate change, die-offs, extinction, etc), types of abalone shells, and significance to Native cultures on Pacific coast.
- Safety: necessary precautions, general how-to on tools and materials
- Identifying the good shells and their characteristics
- **Activity #1: Elements of Design** - students will learn how to design their desired pendants (basic shapes – squares, triangles, rectangles)

### **Day 2: Cutting and Grinding (3 - 4 hours)**

- Review: Design and tool safety

- **Demonstration:** Cutting and Grinding
- **Practice:** Students will use tools (tile saw) to make their initial cuts. Dremmel will also be introduced.
- Q&A

### **Day 3: Polishing (3 - 4 hours)**

- **Demonstration** : Polishing techniques, hand-sanding, tumbling
- Instruction: Tumbler
- **Practice** : Polishing- Students will individually work on polishing their work, with time for questions.

### **Day 4: Complex shapes (circles, etc)**

- **Demonstration:** on technique
- **Practice:** Students cut and grind using tile saw to create triangle-shaped and/or circle pieces
- Introduction to Acrylics (pros and cons, how to use, comparison to natural techniques)
- Instruction on Drilling
- **Practice** : Students practice using acrylics and drilling their pendants

### **Day 5 (3 - 4 hours): Wrap-up day**

- Tumbler- Take out shells and distribute, compare with hand-sanded shells
- **Practice** : Drilling and acrylics for newly distributed shells (from tumbler)
- **Demonstration:** on assembling basic necklace
- **Practice** : Students will assemble their pieces into a basic necklace
- Wrap-up: Preview into more advanced techniques